

GPO Quality Control for Published Products

Automated Bid List (ABLS) Quality Level

Sample Submission Procedures

Evaluation Process

The purpose of the evaluation is to determine a contractor's ability to consistently produce orders at the required quality level without undue assistance on the part of the Government. These ratings will be used by our Automated Bid List System in determining who solicitations will be issued to and by our Contracting Officers as an aid in making responsibility determinations on individual contracts. Receipt of a rating will in no case guarantee the award of any specific order or contract.

Samples, proofs, and press sheets will be evaluated, as applicable, for overall quality as well as the following attributes: hickies and spots, extraneous marks, moiré, register, text and illustration image position, type quality and uniformity, halftone match, solid or screen tints color match, process color match, rub resistance of printed image, trim size, misplacement and/or misalignment of cover image, cover position, folding position and skewness, perfect-bound book durability, loose cover pages and/or binding, excess glue, damaged pages, damaged edges, warpage of case-bound books, damaged covers, missing pages, upside down covers, upside down pages, blank pages-other than specified, wrong pagination, loss of information, and shifts in process color match.

GPO will notify contractors of the rating they have received and identify any causes for receipt of a rating lower than that requested. Contractors may resubmit samples at any time.

Contractors should submit the following for evaluation:

Quality Level 3 and below

A comprehensive list of current equipment including, but not limited to, types of presses (web or sheetfed), proofing systems with resolutions, and bindery equipment.

Evaluation Sample Certificate GPO Form 2689 (<http://www.gpo.gov/pdfs/vendors/sfas/gpo2689.pdf>)

Three samples that have been produced within the last six months. Each sample must include:

- The original media (electronic disk) When available.
- The approved proof (labeled with the system used to produce it).
- The approved press sheet (containing color bars and labeled with the equipment used to produce it).
- The finished product trimmed, folded, or constructed for final delivery (a minimum of 3 copies labeled with the date of production.)
- A reference for each sample submitted including the name of the company, address, contact person, and telephone number.

To avoid additional restrictions on your Quality Level rating, the samples should represent a cross section of the type of work that the contractor would like to produce. The samples should include, at a minimum, single color, four-color, spot color, solids, screens (single color and/or builds), halftones, and/or line work. Submitting samples only containing line work will result in Print Procurement' Quality Control area recommending award for only line work and not for solids, halftones, multi color, and/or four-color process. Proofs submitted that do not meet requirements will not be evaluated, samples will be rated for print quality only.

Quality Level 2

In addition to the above, contractor's submitting samples for Quality Level 2 must include proofs equivalent to one of the following with each of their samples:

Digital one-piece composite laminated halftone proofs on the actual production stock (Kodak Approval, Polaroid PolaProof, CreoSpectrum, or Fuji Final Proof) with a minimum resolution of 2400 x 2400 dpi. Proofs must contain color control bars (such as Brunner, GATF, GRETAG, or RIT) for each color of ink on the sheet. Control bars must be placed parallel to the press's ink rollers and must show areas consisting of minimum 1/8" x 1/8" solid color patches; tint patches of 25, 50 and 75%; dot gain scale; slur targets; and gray balance patches for process color (if applicable). These areas must be repeated consecutively across the sheet. Proofs must show dot structure.

Inkjet proofs that are G7 profiled and use pigment-based inks. A proofing RIP that provides option for high quality color matching (such as Device Links Technology and/or ICC Profiles Technology), and meets or exceeds industry tolerance to ISO 12647-7 Standard for Graphic Technology (as of 3/19/09 and future amendments) must be utilized plus GRACoL 2006 Coated #1 specifications (CGATS TR006) must be achieved. Output must be a minimum of 720 x 720 dpi on a GRACoL or SWOP certified proofing media. Proofs must contain the following color control strip to be evaluated for accuracy: IDEAlliance ISO 12647-7 Control Strip 2009.

Please note: Specific Level 2 solicitations may require proofs showing dot structure and will therefore not allow use of inkjet proofs. Contractors who are incapable of providing proofs showing dot structure on solicitations requiring them will be declared non-responsible.

Proofs must have all elements in press configuration and must indicate margins. Proofs will be used to gauge success of color match to press sheet. Photographic and overlay proofs are not acceptable. Press sheets must contain color control bars for each color of ink on the sheet. Control bars must be placed parallel to the press's ink rollers. The control bars (such as Brunner, GATF, GRETAG, or RIT) must show areas consisting of minimum 1/8" x 1/8" solid color patches; tint patches of 25,50 and 75%; dot gain scale; slur targets and gray balance patches for process color (if applicable). These areas must be repeated consecutively across the sheet. Direct to plate must be used to produce the final product with a minimum of 2400 x 2400 dpi.

Quality Level 1

In addition to the above, an onsite inspection may be required in order to qualify for a Quality Level 1 rating. The onsite will require the inspection and viewing of live work in progress.

Please note: After evaluation, materials will remain at GPO for reference. Submission through third parties will not be accepted.

Proofs, press sheets, and samples should be sent to the following address:

U. S. Government Publishing Office

Quality Level Samples
Mail Stop CSPS, Rm. C- 848
732 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20401
202.512.0542